



Board of Crime Control

Department of Justice

5 S. Last Chance Gulch
PO Box 201408
Helena MT 59620

Phone (406)444-3604
Fax (406)444-4722
TTY (406)444-7099
www.mbcc.mt.gov

Board Members:

Laura Obert
Chairperson

Rick Kirm
Tribal, Rural, NE MT Rep
Vice Chairperson

Mike Batista
Department of Corrections
Director

Pam Carbonari
Youth Justice Council Chair

Jim Cashell
Public Representative

William Dial
Whitefish Police Department
Chief of Police

Brenda Desmond
4th Judicial District Court
Standing Master

Leo Dutton
Lewis & Clark County
Sheriff

Tim Fox
Attorney General

Kelly McIntosh
Public Representative

William Hooks
Chief Public Defender

Tara Jensen
Missoula CASA Director

Steve McArthur
Community Correctional
Programs Services
Director

Beth McLaughlin
Court Administrator

Michelle Miller
Community-Based Organization

Nickolas Murnion
Valley County Attorney

Angela Russell
Tribal Representative

Godfrey Saunders
Citizen

Brooke Marshall
Executive Director

October 31, 2014

Dear Teachers,

You are cordially invited to participate in **Montana's Do the Write Thing Challenge**, a violence prevention program that targets middle school students and asks them to take a stand against violence in their schools and communities.

Montana has participated in the National Challenge since 2008; more than 1,000 middle school students have written thought-provoking, insightful essays and poems. Each year Montana's Do the Write Thing committee selects one boy and one girl to represent Montana as our ambassadors. They travel to Washington, D.C. with a parent and the sponsoring teacher to attend a four-day gathering of other ambassadors. Parents, teachers, and students attend workshops and visit Capitol Hill. Each year a leather-bound book containing the ambassadors' writings is presented to the Library of Congress. Last year both of our students were invited to read their essays aloud; one read at the Library of Congress, and the other read at the Supreme Court.

Why should you participate? First, you have an opportunity to provide your students with an opportunity to write and make a commitment to take a stand against youth violence. Second, the student commitment against violence can assist in promoting a positive school atmosphere. Finally, you and your students just may be on a plane to Washington, D.C. in June, dining at the Kuwait Embassy and visiting with your Congressional representatives. Your plane tickets, hotel rooms, and some of the meals are provided; you just may want to bring some pocket money for fun!

The instructions, a copy of the cover sheet, a poster, and a brochure are included; the writings are due to me **February 20, 2015**. All we need now is you! Call or email me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie Fischer".

Julie Fischer
Jfischer2@mt.gov
406-444-2056

The mission of the Board of Crime Control is to proactively contribute to public safety, crime prevention, and victim assistance through planning, policy development and coordination of the justice systems in partnerships with citizens, government and communities.